

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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A test button 26 which extends through opening 28 in the face portion 16 of the housing 12 is used to activate a test operation, that tests the operation of the circuit interrupting portion (or circuit interrupter) disposed in the device. The circuit interrupting portion is used to break electrical continuity in one or more conductive paths between the line and load side of the device. A reset button 30 forming a part of the reset portion extends through opening 32 in the face portion 16 of the housing 12. The reset button is used to activate a reset operation, which reestablishes electrical continuity to open conductive paths. Electrical connections to existing household electrical wiring are made via binding screws 34 and 36, where screw 34 is an input or line phase connection, and screw 36 is an output or load phase connection. Two additional binding screws 38 and 40 (see Fig. 2 3) are located on the opposite side of the receptacle 10. These additional binding screws provide line and load neutral connections, respectively. A more detailed description of a GFCI receptacle is provided in U.S. Patent No. 4,595,894, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference. Binding screws 34, 36, 38 and 40 are exemplary of the types of wiring terminals that can be used to provide the electrical connections. Examples of other types of wiring terminals include set screws, pressure clamps, pressure plates, push-in type connections, pigtails and quick connect tabs.

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To reset the GFCI receptacle so that contacts 52 and 56 are closed and continuity in the phase conductive path is re-established, the reset button 30 is depressed sufficiently to overcome the bias force of return spring 120 and moves the latch member 100 in the direction of arrow A. Depressing the reset button 30 causes the latch finger 102 to contact side L of the movable contact arm 50 and, continued depression of the reset button 30, forces the latch member to overcome the stress force exerted by the arm 50 to cause the reset contact 104 on the arm 50 to close on reset contact 106. Closing the reset

contacts activates the operation of the circuit interrupter by, for example simulating a fault, so that plunger 92 moves the banger 94 upwardly striking the latch member 100 which pivots the latch finger 102, while the latch member 100 continues to move in the direction of arrow A. As a result, the latch finger 102 is lifted over side L of the remote end 116 of the movable contact arm 50 onto side R of the remote end of the movable contact arm. Contact arm 50 now returns to its unstressed position, opening contacts ~~52 and 56, and contacts 62 and 66~~ 104 and 106, to terminate the activation of the circuit interrupting portion, thereby de-energizing the coil assembly 90.

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As illustrated in Fig 8, the U shaped blocking member 300 is located under the cover 16 of the receptacle and supports two end portions 306 each having a downwardly extending end 308 adapted to be slidably and pivotally engaged within cutouts 310 in mounting strap 312. A recess 314 centrally located in the blocking member is positioned to cooperate with finger 316 which projects from the side of the reset button 30. The blocking member can be composed of insulating material such as a non conducting plastic. Located under the blocking member is contact arm ~~54~~ 354. The ends 308 of the blocking member 300 are slidably coupled in cutouts 310 in the strap and permit the mounting member to slide laterally along the strap from left, position B, to the right, position A. When the blocking member is at the left, position B, the finger 316 on the reset button is located above the blocking member, not the recess, and, if the reset button is depressed the finger 316 will exert a downward force on the blocking member. When the blocking member is at the right, position A, the finger on the reset button 30 is located above the recess 314 in the blocking member and, if depressed, will enter the recess 314. If the reset button 30 is pressed as the blocking member is moved from position B to position A, the finger 316 will slide along the top of the mounting member and fall into recess 314. The blocking member, in addition to being slidably coupled to the strap 312, is also pivotally coupled to the strap. More specifically, if the reset button 30 is depressed when the blocking member is at the ~~right~~ left, position ~~A~~ B, the finger 316 will contact the top surface of the blocking member and urge it to pivot downward about the blocking ends 308 against the force of a spring, not illustrated and/or contact arm ~~54~~ 354. As the blocking

member pivots downward, it urges contact arm ~~54~~ 354 downward and closes contacts 56, 52 to initiate a test cycle. Obviously, if the reset button is depressed when the blocking member is in position A, the finger 316 will enter the recess 314 and a test cycle will not be initiated. When the blocking member is in position A the receptacle openings are not blocked by the blocking member and a plug can be inserted into the receptacles. When the blocking member is in position B the receptacle openings are blocked by the blocking member and a plug can not be inserted into the receptacles.

In operation, lockout is achieved initially when the blocking member blocks the receptacle openings on a miss-wired or defective unit. When the GFCI device is in its lockout condition, the blocking member is in position A B. Referring to Fig. 8, as the reset button is depressed, the finger 316 on the reset button interferes with the top surface of the blocking member causing it to pivot about the ends 308 and move contact arm ~~54~~ 354 downward to activate the test cycle. If the GFCI is miss wired or the GFCI has failed, the blocking member will not be moved laterally and the GFCI will remain in its locked out state.